National Policy on Co-operatives

495. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a draft National Policy or, Co-operates;

(b) if so, the views of the State Government in this regard; and

(e) the act:on proposed to extend financial help to Cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It has been decided to formulate a National Policy on Cooperatives. The Draft National Policy on Cooperative, was discussed with the State Ministers of Cooperation in a Conference held on 30-6-2000 in New Delhi. The State Governments accepted the Draft National Policy *in* principle, However, in order to further fine-tune the draft, it was decided to constitute a Group of State Ministers headed by Minister of State (Agriculture). The Group of Ministers has held its next meeting on 17-7-2000. The policy would be finalised in view of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

(c) Financial help to the Cooperatives is being extended as per approved plans/schemes and budget allocation.

Suicide by farmers

496. SHRI K. M. KHAN. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the suicidal deaths of the farmers in Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh on account of seviere drought situation.

(b) If so, the causes of such suicidal deaths;

(c) whether it is a fact that there was starvation deaths in Mahbubnagar district' on account of unprecedented drought situation; and